The People's Korea

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DPRK-USSR Border Treaty Signed In Moscow

The treaty on the state border between the DPRK and the USSR and a consular convention between the DPRK and the USSR were concluded on April 17 in Moscow.

The treaty was signed by Korean Foreign Minister Kim Yong Nam and his Soviet counterpart Andrei Gromyko.

Mr. Kim Yong Nam who paied an official goodwill visit to the Soviet Union on April 18 met in the Krenilin Mikhail Gorbachyov, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

Mr. Kim Yong Nam conveyed cordial regards of President Kim Il Sung and Mr. Kim Jong Il to the Soviet leader.

He also conveyed a personal letter of the DPRK President to Mr. Gorbachyov.

The Soviet leader asked the Korean foreign minister to convey his greetings and good wishes to President Kim Il Sung and Mr. Kim Jong Il.

On April 17, Mr. Kim and Mr. Gromyko held talks in the Kremlin. The KCNA reported from Moscow that "Discussed at the talks were the question of further strengthening and developing the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries and a number of international issues of common concern."

"The talks proceeded in a friendly atmosphere," added the KCNA.

Meeting reporters on April 17, Mr. Kim mentioned the consistent efforts of the Workers' Party of Korea and the DPRK government for preventing the danger of a new war, guaranteeing peace and security and achieving the peaceful reunification of the country and elaborated on the proposed interparliamentary talks aimed at drafting a joint declaration of non-aggression.

He expressed thanks to the Soviet party and government leaders and people for their active support to the Korean people for national reunification.

Kim Yong Nam also serves as member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and Vice Premier of the Administration Council.

Pyongyang Seeks Detente, Says Rodong Sinmun Editor-in-Chief in Tokyo

Mr. Kim Gi Nam said on April 19 in Tokyo the DPRK wishes to eliminate the danger of war on the Korean Peninsula by seeking detente in its proposed interparliamentary talks with south Korea.

He made the remarks when he and his companions met Japan Socialist Party Chairman Ishibashi Masashi at the JSP headquarters in Tokyo. Mr. Kim is editor-in-chief of Rodong Sinmun, organ of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea. Rodong Sinmun is the most authoritative paper in the DPRK. His party was invited by the Japan Socialist Party.

In the one-hour meeting, Mr. Kim conveyed a message from President Kim Il Sung thanking the JSP for its decision to support the proposal for interparliamentary talks aimed for joint declaration of non-aggression.

He said it is important to clear away misunderstanding between north and south Koreans and build up trust between them.

The JSP chairman said he hoped the north-south parliamentary talks would be held.

Earlier, general meetings of Socialist members of the House of Representatives and the House of Councillors adopted a resolution supporting the proposal of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK to hold north-south interparliamentary talks.

Mr. Kim Gi Nam, editor-in-chief of Rodong Sinmun, organ of the WPK Central Committee, shakes hands with Chairman Ishibashi Masashi of the Japan Socialist Party at the JSP headquarters in downtown Tokyo on April 19. Mr. Kim who was invited by the JSP to visit Japan said Pyongyang seeks rapprochement with Seoul in a series of peace overtures. The JSP Chairman expressed support for the DPRK's peaceful proposals, including interparliamentary talks aimed for a joint declaration of non-aggression.

— To Mark 25th Anniv. of April 19 Popular Uprising —

20,000 S. Korean Students Stage Anti-Gov., Anti-U.S. Demonstrations

More than 6,000 south Korean students hold a sit-in demonstration near the Students Memorial Statue on April 19 on the anniversary of the student-led popular uprising which overthrew the Syngman Rhee regime. Students demanded the cancellation of the planned visit to Washington by Chon and democratic reforms. (Reuter)

The biggest anti-"government" demonstrations in the recent weeks erupted at least 18 universities and colleges in Seoul on April 19 to mark the 25th anniversary of the April 19 Popular Uprising that led to the downfall of the Syngman Rhee "regime", according to an AP report from Seoul.

One major clash occured near a memorial monument in Seoul for victims of the student-led uprising. About 6,000 slogan-chanting people, mostly students from various universities, tried to march into the streets, witnesses said.

The students threw stones, torches and bottle bombs in an effort to break through police cordons just outside their campuses.

Some 20,000 students reportedly staged demonstrations on 18 campus sites in Seoul, according to the south Korean daily Joong-ang Daily News.

Witnesses said the demonstrators shouted slogans and scattered leaflets opposing the visit to Washington by Chon Du Hwan scheduled to leave Seoul on April 24.

There have been sporadic demonstrations by students and workers since the announcement of Chon's visit.

(Continued on page 5)

EDITORIAL

New Wave of South Korean Student Movement

Since the beginning of April, south Korean students have been struggling against the junta of Gen. Chon Du Hwan, calling for democratization.

The student movement, while tightening ties with workers whose trade union activities are suppressed, demands democratic campus and the removal of the military regime, showing a strong anti-American sentiment.

Student action included: opposition to the eviction of Mok Dong inhabitants at the end of March, a demonstration in support of workers's fight in which they fought police with gasoline bombs and stones in Seoul in mid-April and a rally of 1,500 students from 20 colleges and universities to protest Chon's visit to Washington on April 17.

Japanese newspapers say these anti-government acts are likely to spread out and pick up.

Their slogans include: 1) democratic campus and defense of the General Student Council; 2) opposition to Chon's visit to the U.S.; 3) an end to the illegal arrest of students and fascist suppression and immediate release of jailed students; 4) a stop to the crackdown on the labor union and guarantee of the three rights to labor and 5) the resignation of the dictatorial military regime.

Moreover, their struggles have changed in form from on-campus to on-street actions, and to the use of molotov cocktails and stones against police.

It is most likely that the students' ties with workers and citizens will grow closer, with joint student-worker action developed.

What is significant is the fact that student organizations have expanded on a nation-wide scale, with inter-mural relations strengthened. At the rally in Seoul of representatives from 20 colleges and universities, they demanded release of all political prisoners, recognition of campus autonomy and expressed opposition to suppressive measures against trade unions.

The south Korean students, defying severe oppression, have risen like a phoenix and as "spokesmen" for the south Korean people who aspire after social democracy and their country's reunification.

Drawing a lesson from their experiences, they know that if south Korea does not become a democracy, the two parts of Korea cannot be reunified, to say nothing of safeguarding peace.

In this sense, the student movement for democracy carries tremendous significance, especially at a time when north and south Korean legislators are near dialogue.

Fifth Anniversary of Institution of DPRK Public Health Law

April 5 is the fifth anniversary of the institution of "the Public Health Law of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea" by President Kim Il Sung.

Over the past five years since the publication of the popular, advanced public health law, a great success has been made in health services for the people in Korea. In this period the number of the preventive medical organs increased 5.7 percent, that of the doctors 23.8 percent and that of the hospital beds 3.3 percent and the material and technical foundations for health services have been consolidated.

Since the promulgation of the Public Health Law, several hundred preventive medical organs, new and modern, such as the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital and the Pyongyang Dental Preventive Hospital took shape in all parts of the country under the popular public health policy of the Workers' Party of Korea and the government of the Republic.

In the period, the dental preventive hospital with more than 150 treatment rooms and 35 other preventive medical organs made their appearances in South Hamgyong Province.

Every county people's hospital has been better furnished into a general hospital and the specialized treatment and medical services of rural *ri* people's hospitals improved.

Specialized medicinal herb farms, traditional Korean medicine pharmacies and production bases have been built or expanded on a large scale.

The Korean Academy of Traditional Medicine and other new medical science research centres have been founded and brisk medical researches including the scientisation of Korean traditional medicine and researches for Juche-based preventive medicine production have made progress.

The technical innovation proposals for medical science introduced into preventive treatment last year were 2.7 times the 1980 figure.

Life expectancy at birth in Korea has been lengthened 36 years compared with that before liberation to reach 74 years.

A view of the modern hospital attached to the Pyongsong Medical College.

Steel Output Is Sharply Growing

Steel production will be radically increased in Korea in this significant year greeting the 40th anniversaries of the national liberation and the founding of the party to lay more solid material and technical foundations for attaining the 15 million-ton steel production target, one of the ten long-range objectives of socialist economic construction for the 1980s.

Korea is developing the metal industry in reliance upon abundant domestic iron ore and coal resources.

Juche-based steel production bases have been extensively built at iron and steel works.

The Kim Chaek Iron Works, the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex, the Kangson Steel Complex, the Chongjin Steel Plant and the Songjin Steel Plant have turned into reliable metallurgical bases of the country. Local steel plants have also been equipped better.

Furnaces have been reconstructed and rolling and second-stage metal processing bases expanded.

The cold rolling shop and the tin and zinced plates shops of the rolling mill of the Kim Chaek Iron Works, the Section Steel Rolling Shop of the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex and the Iron Rod Rolling Shop of the Kangson Steel Complex were constructed and commissioned in the period of the second Seven-Year Plan (1978-1984).

This helped further perfect the production processes from pig iron to steel, rolled steel and second-stage metal processing.

Efforts are being made to expand the Kim Chaek Iron Works and the Kangson Steel Complex respectively into 6 and 3 million ton steel production bases.

Comprehensive mechanization, automation and remote control are being extensively introduced into production in the ferrous metal industrial domain.

Steel output is sharply growing with Juche-based iron production bases firmly built. The nation's steel output was as low as 5,000 tons in 1946, the next year of the country's liberation. The steel production capacity grew to 4 million tons in 1976, 30 years later, and its output increased 85 percent during the second Seven-Year Plan.

Today Korea ranks among the developed industrial states in per capita steel output. She now meets the domestic demand for various metals in the development of the national economy and exports irons and steels to different countries.

A view of the new section steel shop of the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex

Pyongyang University Manufactures Rice Harvester Of New Type

Pyongyang University of Mechanical Engineering greatly helps solve scientific and technical problems arising in various domains of the national economy.

Recently it succeeded in the manufacture of a rice harvester of new type.

Unlike the existing rice harvesters which were used only in harvesting, this machine operates all the year round, serving in carriage, chemical spraying and ploughing, beside rice-harvesting (cutting rice plants and binding them into sheaves).

The university also completed researches for technical remodelling of many parts of the electric locomotive, thereby greatly helping toward the development of railway transport.

Besides, in recent years the university completed a number of valuable research subjects such as a high-pressure mould-maker, press heat treatment of reinforcing iron for construction, ray-tracing plasma cutter, thereby contributing to economic construction.

The university is situated in the east district of Pyongyang.

It trains many technical personnel firmly armed with modern science and technology every year to implement the tasks laid down by President Kim Il Sung in "Theses on Socialist Education".

The number of teachers with academic degrees or professorship has increased 6.5 times compared with that before the publication of the theses in September 1977.

The university was founded in 1959.

40 Years Since Liberation

Korea in Its Youthful Prime (8)

Agriculture Suited to Korean Soil, Climate

(Continued from the No. 1,237 issue of The People's Korea)

Stable Harvest

Grain production in the DPRK is increasing every year at a high tempo. Even in the 1970s when the food crisis was worsening in the world, Korea produced 7 million tons of grain in 1974, 7.7 million tons in 1975, 8 million tons in 1976, 9.5 million tons in 1982 and 10 million tons in 1984. Korea is maintaining a stable harvest, and increasing its grain output. During the period, Korea came to export more than 200,000 tons of food from 1978.

Korea recorded a remarkable annual growth rate of 36 percent in agricultural production in 1972-1973, 31 percent in 1973-1974 and 14-15 percent in 1975-1976, when agricultural production decreased sharply in foreign countries, adversely affected by abnormal weather conditions.

There, the yield of paddy rice and corn per hectare also steadily increased in the 1970s. Its rice production finally reached 7.6 tons and corn production 6.5 tons in 1982. I heard that the rice yield per hectare exceeded 8 tons at a large number of cooperative farms last year when Korea produced 10 million tons of grain. The rice yield per unit area in the DPRK ranked first in the world (6.19 tons), according to the 1983 FAO (Food and Agricultural Organization) yearbook. This is a remarkably high level, as compared with 5.69 tons per hectare in Japan. (Japan ranked third in the world in 1982 by FAO statistics).

In a word, Korean agriculture "came to be able to stably ensure a goodharvest, whatever droughts or long spell of rainy weather hits Korea." (in the report of the then Premier Kim Il, in 1974). But Korea was also hit by unusual weather in recent years, just as in foreign countries.

But in 1982 Korea recorded a good harvest of 9.5 million tons, in spite of bad weather condition.

A heavy rainfall hit Korea after a long spell of drought for over 160 days in spring and summer. It is said that the drought was the longest in the 70-odd-year history of meteorological observations in Korea. It is recorded that 600,000 Korean people starved because of dry weather in 1919. At that time, rainfall stood at 60 millimeters for 100 days from the middle of January to the end of April and 213 millimeters for 60 odd days from June to July in the major regions.

But rainfall in 1982 was much less than in the years of famine 70 years before.

We can understand how severe the drought was in 1982, as compared with these figures.

What about the weather last year when Korea produced 10 million tons of grain, the best harvest in the history of Korea? The meteorological pattern in the past several years was repeated last year. Korea had had weather–low temperature in spring, droughts in summer and localized torrential downpour before harvest time.

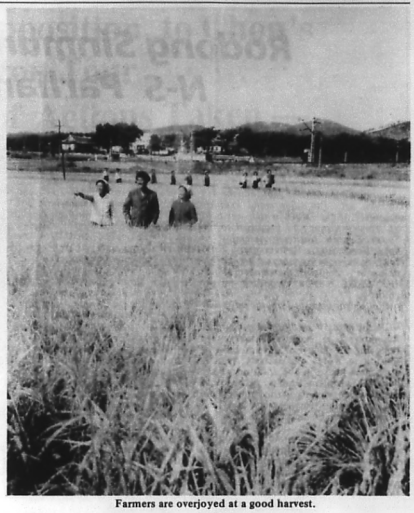
In last August, a typhoon hit the Korean Peninsula. In south Korea, 67,370 hectares of fields was flooded. The damage to crops reached astronomical figures. But the northern half of Korea minimized the damage thanks to thorough measures against flood and wind damage. Immediately after the typhoon, relief goods including 50,000 sok (about 7,500 tons) of rice were sent from Pyongyang to south Korean flood victims.

In spite of bad weather, Korean agriculture recorded a good harvest, fully displaying its potential power.

We cannot discuss the solution of agricultural problem in Korea apart from the wise guidance of President Kim Il Sung.

Thanks to his guidance, land reform was carried out after Korea's liberation and the cooperativization of agriculture was promoted. Korean farmers were emancipated from all forms of exploitation and oppression for good and the agricultural productive forces were freed from the fetters of the old production relations.

Korean agriculture was rapidly transfigured along the line indicated in his theses on the rural question. Three revolutions – ideological, technical and cultural – are being carried out powerfully, under the guidance of the state, with assistance from industry and with support from cities.



Farmers are overjoyed at a good harvest.

With machines doing toilsome rice-transplantation work

The people was aroused by the enthusiasm of President Kim Il Sung who was deeply interested in the rural question and wisely guided agriculture personally in the 1970s.

Irrigation Comes First

It is said that "rice has to be grown and soil has to be made" But there is a tendency to neglect in "soil-making" in the farming methods in capitalist countries. It is said that this has made agriculture world-wide liable to damage due to cold weather and droughts in recent years. The important point of the Juche farming method established by the guidance of President Kim Il Sung is "to make soil" in which we can find a major key to success in Korean agriculture.

The DPRK has reached an industrializing stage in agriculture, making progress in mechanization and chemicalization through a technical revolution of agriculture. Korea has made consistent efforts to "make soil" since the immediate post-liberation days. This resulted in enriching its land.

In its afforestation and water conservancy projects, land was protected by tide embankment work. Irrigation was given priority in the technical revolution of agriculture, to improve arable land throughout the country.

At present, the total length of irrigation canals in Korea is about equal to a circle around the globe (about 40,000 kilometres) and the area under irrigation per 100 hectare reaches 70 hectare.

Intensive Farming Method

Furthermore, Korean agriculture could not but choose intensification to raise per-unit yield as its arable land was limited to 2 million hectares. Agricultural production is growing thanks to intensive application of fertilizers mixed with organic nitrogenous fertilizers.

As long as the Juche farming method is carried out on the basis of these actual results of agricultural production, Korea will be able to produce 15 million tons of grain in the near future.

(To be continued)

Spring Tree-Planting in Korea

Tree-planting is under way in Korea on day of three planting (April 6).

Thirty-eight years ago on Apr. 6 President Kim Il Sung climbed Munsu Hill in Pyongyang, personally planted trees, unfolding a new, proud history of afforestation in the motherland.

On the occasion of this day, tree-planting is going on in Korea through a mass movement.

According to data compiled at the Forestry Administration Department of the General Land Management Bureau, over 75,117,000 trees had been planted in 22,000 hectares as of April 3 throughout the country.

This is an over 1.7 fold increase as against the same period last year.

In this period, trees were planted in 8,370 hectares in South Hwanghae Province, in 5,000 hectares in North Hwanghae Province, in 1,600 hectares in Kaesong municipality and in 1,200 hectares in Pyongyang municipality.

With over 100,000 hectares of land afforested every year in recent years in Korea, timber production bases and raw material bases for fibre, oil, medicines and so on have been rapidly expanded.

Three-planting is brisk in the urban areas, too.

According to data compiled at the Afforestation Department of the General City Administration Bureau, 1,347,000 trees had been planted in this domain as of April 4.

In Pyongyang municipality, the spring afforestation plan has been fulfilled more than two times by planting 324,000 trees which will bear flowers and 193,000 trees which will grow tall.

Rodong Sinmun Calls for Realizing N-S Parliamentary Talks

Rodong Sinmun, the organ of the CC of the Workers' Party of Korea on April 11 carried an editorial calling for realizing the new peace-oriented proposal by concerted efforts of north and south in connection with the fact that the 4th Session of 7th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK which was held on April 9 through 11 proposed to the South Korean National Assembly to hold North-South Parliamentary Talks as a measure for opening up an epochal phase in removing the danger of war and easing tension prevailing in the country.

Follows an excerpt from the editorial:

Proposal of the Supreme People's Assembly is a positive initiative for removing the danger of war and relaxing tension in Korea and actively opening up a new phase in the solution of the national problem and a peace-loving initiative complying with the demand of the times for preservation and consolidation of peace in Korea and Asia.

The new peace-oriented proposal advanced in the 4th Session of the 7th Supreme People's Assembly is now calling forth widespread repercussions at home and abroad as one reflecting the demand of the times and of the Korean nation which eagerly desire to resolve distrust and misunderstanding between north and south, reduce tension, attain national rapprochement and to lay a foundation for Korea's peaceful reunification.

We have already suffered for 40 years the misfortune of artificial partition of our territory and national division.

The continued division has not only prevented a unified development of our people, a homogeneous nation, but also has fostered distrust and misunderstanding within one and the same nation and aggravated tension, increasing the danger of war.

Our party and the DPRK government bending all efforts to open up a peaceful phase in the solution of the Korean question, last year, too, made a proposal for three-way talks to the south Korean authorities and the U.S. as a constructive measure for easing tension and promoting peace.

However, so far for one year since then, the tripartite talks have not been realized and the political climate has been getting continuously worse.

The re-opened Red Cross meeting after a long interval and the newly-opened economic negotiation following our relief goods measure for the south Korean flood victims in autumn last year, were suspended because of the joint military exercise "Team Spirit 85" and the tension-relaxing atmosphere which once prevailed is taking a turn for the worse.

The situation has gone back again to the point of confrontation without dialogue.

If this situation continues, neither north and south can come to terms, nor harmony can lead to a peaceful life.

The tense atmosphere surrounding our country demands immediate, epochal measures for overcoming the present difficulties through the united efforts of north and south Korea for relaxing the situation again and creating conditions favorable for our country's peaceful reunification through dialogue and negotiation.

The greatest barrier separating north from south today is mistrust and misunderstanding pent up in the 40 years of split.

If a joint declaration of non-aggression is made public at North-South Parliamentary Talks, north and south Korean authorities will easily solve the problem of adopting a non-aggression declaration by carrying it into effect and it will become possible to create an atomosphere of national unity by dispelling mistrust and misunderstanding between north and south.

Parliamentary talks will also become the best way for relaxing tension within the nation at present when tripartite talks have not been realized.

Our proposal to reach agreement on the problem of peace in the country between north and south as far as possible even before the realization of tripartite talks.

North-South Parliamentary Talks fully accord with the aspiration and desire of the world's peace-loving people for the preservation of peace in Korea and a reasonable one in the form of dialogue.

The solution of the question of guaranteeing detente and peace through North-South Parliamentary Talks will greatly contribute to the maintenance of peace in Korea, Asia and the world.

Our proposal to discuss important problems through North-South Parliamentary Talks for reconciliation, trust and detente takes into adequate consideation a series of views and assertions made public by the south Korean side relating to dialogue and the reunification question.

The realization of parliamentary talks carries weighty significance.

If North-South Parliamentary Talks are realized and a non-aggression declaration is adopted, this will prevent possible armed clashes between north and south and greatly contribute to ensuring peace and laying a foundation for the peaceful reunification of the country.

A non-aggression declaration will be a historical peace declaration to express the determination of north and south not to fight again each other but to advance forward to peace and peaceful reunification.

It will also demonstrate national unity to hew out the destiny of the nation with the united strength of both sides and highten the north-south relations to a level of reconciliation and trust.

The realization of parliamentary talks will open a broad way of many-sided dialogue between north and south and stimulate its advance and provide a reliable occasion in making it possible to hold high-level political talks between north and south.

Parliamentary talks will exert a favorable influence upon economic talks and Red Cross talks and promote many-sided collaboration and exchange between north and south and accelerate the realization of tripartite talks for ensuring a durable peace in our country.

The south Korean side has no reason to refuse our proposal.

It is the compelling need of the nation to put an end to the history of confrontation and antagonisms and open up a new phase of peace and peaceful reunification by creating an atmosphere of reconciliation and trust.

This supreme demand of the nation can only be realized with the united strength of all forces in north and south who aspire after peace and peaceful national reunification irrespective of the differences of ideas and systems.

The three principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity proclaimed at home and abroad in the historic July 4 North-South Joint Statement as the common principle of national reunification to north and south is the major programme for the solution of the national question which our nation must unanimously uphold in future, too.

If both north and south respect and uphold the three principles we would be able to fully unite our strength and wisdom for the achievement of the great national task of peace and peaceful reunificaiton.

We sincerely hope that the new South Korean National Assembly which will open its session will sincerely discuss our new peace-oriented proposal and make an affirmative reply to us.

We express the belief that the parliaments, governments, political parties and organizations of all countries of the world, international organizations, press circles and peace-loving people will support our peaceful initiative on holding North-South Parliamentary Talks and express firm solidarity with it.

Growing Labour Movement Threatens Chon Junta

The students and workers staged a big demonstration on April 12 in Jongno-gu, the heart of Seoul, chanting "Guarantee the Three Rights of Labour!", "Recognize the Chonggye Labour Union!" and other slogans, the south Korean paper Dong-A Ilbo reported on April 13.

The students and workers originally planned to hold a "rally to demand legal status for the Chonggye Labour Union and to check suppression of the labour movement" at Pyonghwa Market in downtown Seoul.

Prevented from attending the rally by riot police dispatched there in advance, they gathered on a nearby street and staged a strong anti-"government" demonstration.

They courageously fought the teargas firing police, hurling stones at them.

The Chonggye Labour Union, organizing some 200,000 textile workers at small factories around Chonggyechon, Seoul, played a militant role in the labour movement of the 1970s under the late Pak Jung Hi's yushin dictatorship. But the union was forcibly disbanded on Jan. 6, 1981 on charges of violation of the "national security law" and the union office was ordered closed, raided by some 500 police forces.

Despite the severe suppression of the labour movement, however, it has held rallies to recognize the union, continuously demanding its legitimacy.

Its rallies for improvement of their working condition in September and October last yearwere repeatedly cracked down by the Chon junta.

Earlier, on March 5, workers at the Changsong Mine, the largest mine in south Korea, waged a sit-in strike in protest against low wages and their inferior working conditions, with their some 800 wives rising up in unity with their husbands, calling for expulsion of the "government"-directed labour union leaders and the president of the company.

As of April 15 some 150 female workers at Samsung Pharmaceutical Co., in Mojindong, eastern Seoul, staged a strike for four consecutive days, demanding a pay hike.

They occupied an office of the company, chanting slogans, "Guarantee a decent living wage," and "Stop suppression of labour union activities."

They went on strike in the afternoon on April 12 after their negotiations on a wage increase with management broke up. The workers demanded a wage increase of 15 percent but the management proposed an only 6 percent hike.

Meanwhile, female workers at Korean Onkyo Corp., an audio parts maker in southern Seoul, on April 11 held an overnight protest meeting at the head office of the Council for the Promotion of Democracy, demanding reinstatement of unjustifiably fired labour union leaders.

The demonstrators, with Miss Pak, leader of the firm's labour union, standing in the forefront, entered the CPD head office in the heart of Seoul on the previous day.

In the meantime, two lawmakers of the opposition New Korea Democratic Party who are also CPD members called on labour minister on April 11 to protest against the "government's" attitude to this matter.

In December 1980 soon after his seizure of power Chon Du Hwan revised south Korea's labour law and strictly controlled labour union activities including a provision on "prohibition of interference by a third party" in the labour law, to restrict workers' contact with lawyers or outside organization.

This was intended to obstruct formation of new labour unions and to destroy existing ones.

South Korean workers who have had no right to existence as is seen in Chon Tae Il's protest self-destruction in 1980 under the late Pak's dictatorial rule, suffer from even worse working conditions owing to their harsher suppression by the junta of Gen. Chon Du Hwan–low wages, long-working hours and an increase in labour accidents.

As a result, some 8 million south Korean workers are paid less than 200,000 won ($242) a month, as admitted even by south Korean labour minister.

How to settle these problems coupled with south Korea's widely reported sluggish economy is another serious question for the Chon junta.

Wives of Changsong miners block a bus for the mine, chanting "Men, get out of the bus! " to protest the mine authorities' intimidation of a sit-in strike staged by their husbands on March 5. (Chungang Ilbo, March 6)

Growing Public Opposition to Chon's Washington Tour
— Various Forms of Actions Taken —

With growing movements against the Chon junta as seen in the demonstrations including workers which are recently getting fiercer Chon Du Hwan's trip to the United States is being strongly opposed by students and dissidents in Seoul.

On April 12 the United Mass Movement for Democracy and Unification, a south Korean dissident group, issued a statement opposing Chon's visit to Washington scheduled for April 24-28, according to an AP report from Seoul.

The organization charged the visit was intended to perpetuate his dictatorial rule with American support.

It also called on the Reagan administration to accept the legitimacy of all south Korean democratic movements against the influence of foreign powers.

The dissident group urged the Chon junta to stop its "undemocratic anti-national" rule and step down voluntarily.

In Pusan, the second largest city of south Korea, action against Chon's planned visit to the United States was taken by students on April 9, according to a radio report from Seoul.

It said that students raided the American Cultural Center in Pusan to express their protest and smashed its window panes.

They broke into the center and scattered a lot of leaflets against the visit.

Meanwhile, some 1,000 students of Sung Kyun Kwan University held an anti-"government" campus rally sponsored by the General Student Council of the university, the south Korean paper Dong-A Ilbo reported on April 15.

More than 400 of the rally attendants held a demonstration to oppose Chon's Washington visit, shouting other anti-"government" slogans: "Let us defend the General Student Council to the last!; "Investigate illegal arrest and use of violence against students!; "Against military dictatorship!"

They clashed head-on with tear-gas firing riot police, hurling stones at them when they tried to go out of the campus for a street demonstration.

On April 10, some 1,000 students from 12 universities in Seoul and Inchon held a rally on the Seoul National University campus to mark the inauguration of a student council of universities in the two cities, Japanese

Some 400 students and workers took to the street in Seoul to protest the visit of Chon Du Hwan to Japan on August 15 last year. (TBS TV)

Kyodo News Agency reported from Seoul.

They took stock of the relations between south Korean and the United States in the past 40 years.

After the meeting,the students tried to take to the street to demonstrate, but were driven back into the campus by riot police. Students hurled stones and Molotov cocktails amid tear gas bombs fired by the riot police and chanted "We oppose Chon Du Hwan's trip to the U.S." and called for suspension of the Chon junta's import liberlization policy.

There have been recent sporadic demonstrations of students trying to take to the streets, while chanting "national independence" calling for south Koreans to "repulse the influence of foreign power" (the United States), according to the south Korean English-language paper Korea Times.

The slogans heard at Sejong-no on the night of April 15 called for the "government" to scrap the policy of import liberlization, ensuring a guranteed standard of living for the common people.

On the same day, about 300 students of Korea University tried to leave the campus at noon opposing to Chon's visit to Washington. But they were repulsed back on to the campus by police using tear gas bombs.

There is a tendency of growing opposition to the south Korean strongman's diplomacy as students branded it "treacherous tour" in a bid to gain American support to his dictatorial rule.

His trip to Japan last year aroused stong opposition of south Koreans as students allegedly called it "deceptive foreign policy" to improve his badly tarnished image for the Kwangju massacre in which more than 2,000 citizens were killed by the Chon-led special combat troops, and to gain much doubted "legitimacy" of his seizure of power.

Observers say his tour of the United States is another attempt to make a more favorable condition to win semblance of "legitimacy" of the "regime" and to seek for his long term office as "President."

The Washington Post in its December 1, 1983 issue said: "...interviews with many Koreans and foreign observers in recent months suggest that his (Chon Du Hwan's) personal support is shallow. They cite as reasons the continuing suppression of dissident, a series of financial scandals that have touched his personal family and officials in his government and Chun's own stiff and

Their anti-"government" slogans also included calls for an end to military dictatorship and for the release of imprisoned students and others accused of anti-"government" activities, the witnesses said.

More than half a dozen schools saw strong student demonstrations on April 18 when protestors also denounced Chon's planned trip. Those students were critical of the Reagan administration for supporting the Chon junta.

Chon's trip has become a rallying cry for the sporadic demonstrations of recent weeks, many of them including more virulent anti-American overtones than in the past, AP reported.

In addition to political differences, protestors also have assailed what they call increasing foreign influence over south Korean economy.

The month-long uprising in 1960 reached a climax on April 19 when Syngman Rhee publicly announced his intention to resign, followed by a complete collapse of his "government" a week later.

In addition to those killed, tens of hundreds of people, mostly young students, were injured while fighting armed police across the country, who, in the final days, opened fire against the demonstrators.

In a statement marking the day, the Council for the Promotion of Democracy led by Kim Dae Jung and Kim Yong Sam called for an end to intervention in the nation's politics by "a small group of military men."

The council also demanded that: all systems and laws that "block the development of democracy" must be abolished; "election laws" must be revised and basic rights, such as the freedoms of press, assembly and association, must be urgently restored; camus freedom be guaranteed and the livelihood of people in urban and farm areas be ensured; and all prisoners of conscience be released and their civil rights restored.

"Only by fulfilling these, may we comfort the souls of those dead and repay their pure and young blood shed on the earth of April for the sake of the nation's democracy," the council said.

Later in the day, one major clash occurred near the memorial tower when almost 6,000 slogan-chanting people, mostly students, tried to march out, led by a huge placard reading "Hammer of democracy down on the stronghold of dictatorship!", witnesses said.

often autocratic behavior.

"One foreign diplomat summed it succinctly. 'Chun is out of the military, and has never had legitimacy. He has not won popularity. He has no real followers. He is not a political leader.'

"Several months ago, a high government official who is now dead conceded that the manner in which Chun took power is his heaviest liability."

SNU Students Launch Signature Campaign Against Chon's Import Policy

The General Student Council of Seoul National University decided to launch a signature campaign against the authorities' "Open-door Import Policy", exposing its reactionary nature and began to collect signatures from students in different parts of campus from the morning of April 9, according to a south Korean paper.

The chairman of the council declared that after the end of the student signature campaign, such movement would be waged outside the campus, saying the "government's" open-door import policy would only deteriorate south Korea's difficult situation caused by foreign debts.

Sit-in Protesters at NKDP Office Demand Release of Pol. Prisoners

About 20 persons, family members of the conscientious prisoners including those who set fire to the American Cultural Center in Pusan, continued a sit-in at the head office of the strong opposition New Korea Democratic Party for the second day on April 16.

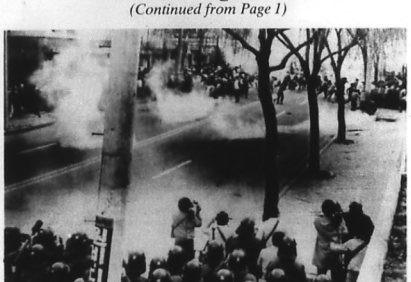
The protesters are demanding that all of the prisoners of conscience be released immediately.

Additionally they are calling for opposition party lawmakers to boycott the opening of the 12th National Assembly unless the prisoners are released.

The political prisoners or prisoners of conscience total about 120, according to a report of the south Korean authorities.

Students Stage Demos.

(Continued from Page 1)



Riot police fire tear gas in order to disperse some 6,000 student demonstrators near the April 19th Cemetery in the outskirts of Seoul on April 19, the 25th anniversary of the uprising that led to the ouster of the late Syngman Rhee regime. (AP photo)

The History of Korean Residents in Japan And Chongryun

3 Democratic Education of Korean Children in Japan

(Continued from the previous issue)

Numerous provisional Korean schools mushroomed all over Japan in the wake of the liberation of Korea from Japanese imperialism to educate children to become reliable nation-builders for a new Korea. No Japanese assistance, private or official, was rendered to the establishment and operation of the independent Korean schools.

Korean education in Japan is nearly 40 years old.

The educational program for Korean children may be called democratic as it is based on democratic values and reflects the will of broad-based Korean residents in Japan and may be defined as national in that it stresses subjects relating to Korea — for example, Korean and Korean history — and enrols Korean children alone.

The establishment of Korean schools by the resident Koreans in Japan to teach their children in Korea accords fully with the International Convention on Human Rights and the governing spirit of the UNESCO.

Today found in various parts of Japan are a total of 154 Korean schools at various levels with enrolment totalling about 30,000. But about 100,000 Korean children go to Japanese schools.

Because of a rapid generational change, an absolute majority of the Korean population in Japan are those second- and third-generation never been to Korea.

Korean education is the only available effective means of instilling into those Koreans a self-respect of being Koreans and thereby making them into worthy Koreans.

A host of difficulties stand in a successful operation of Korean schools. Yet, the resident Koreans in Japan are making strenuous efforts to produce qualified nation-builders to lead Korea to greater prosperity and to expand friendship with the rest of the world.

1) Aim of Korean Education

To bring up all the resident Korean children in Japan as competent youth capable of making great contributions to the prosperity of Korea and its people and to the development of the Korean community in Japan and of working for better communication and friendship with the peoples of the world and for world peace.

To lay stress on equipping the Korean children with a clear Korean consciousness and pride enough to live properly in an alien country far away from their homeland as well as high levels of scientific knowledge, good manners and strong physique.

2) Contents of Curriculums

Primary attention goes to the acquisition of a working command of Korean in part because of its importance in building the Korean spirit and in part because all the textbooks are written in Korean except those for foreign languages.

Another reason is that the Korean children live in Japan, not in Korea.

In social science importance is attached to Korean history, Korean geography, civics, world history and world geography.

Natural science subjects include mathematics, physics, chemistry. They are allocated more hours than other subjects because of their growing importance in modern society.

At Korean schools both Japanese and English are taught, Japanese from primary school level and English from junior high school level.

Sports and art education is given significance. Korea's traditional music and dancing receive special attention in view of their extraordinary value as the time-honored cultural heritage of the Korean people. They are creditable means of inspiring the Korean children with proper Korean spirit.

(To be continued)

Table 1 Subject-by-Subject Time Allocation

	primary	junior high	total	percentage
Korean	1,763	665	2,428	26 percent
social studies	385	420	805	8.8
mathematics	1,050	455	1,505	16.5
science	420	420	840	9.2
Japanese	897	525	1,422	15.6
English		420	420	4.6
arts sports	1,260	455	1,715	18.8
total	5,775	3,360	9,135	

(in hours)

* As of Apr. 15, 1984

Major Dates in Chongryun Work (1973-85)

1973

Sep. 2: A delegation of the Korean scientists association in Japan attends the 10th Convention of the World Federation of Scientific Workers held in Bulgaria.

1974

May 7: A delegation of the Korean Student Committee in Japan attends the 11th Convention of the International Union of Students held in Hungary.

Aug. 29: The Central Art Troupe is reorganized into the Kumgang-san Opera Troupe.

1975

Apr. 2: A delegation of the Korean democratic lawyers association in Japan attends the 10th Convention of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers in Japan.

Jul. 27: A crisscross-Japan walking march and a campaign to collect 5 million signatures in opposition to nuclear war in Korea and in support of Korea's independent and peaceful reunification begins, involving the whole Korean community in Japan.

Oct. 17: A delegation of the Korean democratic women's union in Japan leaves Tokyo to attend a world women's conference to mark the international Year of Women.

1976

Oct. 6: The Korean Arts Institute is founded.

1977

Aug. 21: The Korean Medical Association in Japan is formed.

Sep. 21: Members of the Union of Korean Journalists and Publishers in Japan are awarded Prize of International Journalist by the International Organization of Journalists.

1978

May 1: The Pyongyang Students Troupe begins a performance tour of Japan.

1979

Nov. 29: Chongryun urges the Japanese authorities to protect the rights of Korean nationals resident in Japan in compliance with the International Convention on Human Rights.

1980

Feb. 26: Those local assemblies of Japan which adopted resolutions supporting Korean reunification total 1,500.

May 3: The State Pyongyang Art Troupe begins a performance tour of Japan.

Oct. 23: Chongryun and its 17 member organizations send a joint message to 140 permanent missions in New York to the United Nations as well as the UN Secretary General in connection with the question of Korean reunification.

1981

Jun. 28: The Fourth Overseas Compatriots Symposium is held.

1982

Jun. 25: An Osaka-Tokyo walking march begins for withdrawal of nuclear weapons from south Korea and reunification of Korea.

Oct. 5: The work on construction of the Tokyo Korean Research Center is completed.

1983

Feb. 16: A signature-collecting campaign starts against a large-scale U.S.-south Korea joint exercise "Team Spirit".

Jun. 27: The 13th Congress of Chongryun begins.

Nov. 18: A group of Japanese right-wingers fire on the central office of Chongryun in Tokyo.

1984

Mar. 15: A Japan-wide signature-collecting campaign begins in support of the proposed three-way talks for Korean reunification which managed to collect over 6.5 million signatures from the Japanese people.

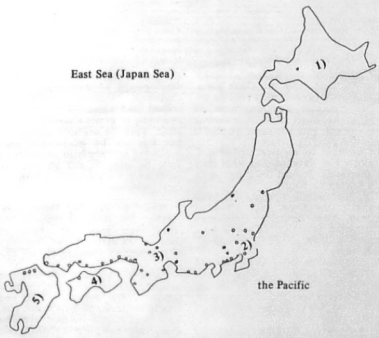
Sep. 9: The DPRK makes the 93rd remittance to Japan of educational aid fund and stipends for Korean schools, bringing the total of the funds thus far remitted to ¥36,014,422,000.

Dec. 31: Deposits with the Korean Credit Association in Japan exceeded 1,000 billion yen

1985

Feb.26: The DPRK sent the 95th educational funds and stipends to Korean students in Japan, amounting to 261,800,000 yen, bringing the total to 36.5 billion yen.

Korean Schools in Japan



1) Hokkaido 2) Tokyo 3) Osaka 4) Shikoku 5) Kyushu

Change Law Drive Climaxing

This year an estimated 370,000 foreign residents of Japan accounting for 65% of 830,000 foreign residents are due to renew their alien registration certificates.

In other words 670,000 Korean residents here more than half of Korean nationals come up for renewal of their certificates.

The Japanese law stipulates that alien registration certificates must be carried at all times by foreign residents 16 years of age and over and be renewed every 5 years or face prosecution. So a new set of fingerprints are required for registrations.

The law also sets a penalty up to one year imprisonment or a fine of up to 200,000 yen for violators.

So far, a total of 500,000 Korean nationals here have been arrested or detained on charges of violations of the Alien Registration Law. Therefore the law is called the "law for controlling Koreans".

Here is the most conspicuous case showing the Japanese government's racially motivated discrimination against resident Koreans.

Kim Ha Il, 29, a company employee in Kawaguchi City, Saitama Prefecture, had his home searched on charges of violation of the Alien Registration Law, last year.

The unwarranted search was conducted by 7 Saitama Prefectural public peace police and police of Kawaguchi station after he had failed to report a change of address. He had moved from Yaizu (Shizuoka Prefecture) to Kawaguchi for a temporary residence there.

Following the incident, he asked prosecutor's office to investigate the unjust treatment, but the office rejected the request.

Then unsatisfied, he filed an application with Urawa Court for a hearing. He cited the following reasons: 1) failing to report a change of address is a very minor offense by nature; 2) there has no police research of any house on the changing in the past 20 years; 3) an investigation of violations of the Allen Registration Law is conducted on a basis at the request from the local bodies concerned, but he wasn't indicted by both Kawaguchi, and Yaizu cities.

Accordingly, a view gaining momentum among particularly foreigners here is that the Alien Registration Law is an infringement on human rights.

Chongryun (the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan) has been staging a nation-wide 3,000,000 signature collecting campaign from Mar. 1 to April 30. It is calling for abolition 1) of fingerprinting 2) the duty of carrying the alien registration certificates all the time 3) a heavy penalties against violators including a fine, or penal servitude.

To date, more and more 16-year old Korean students who come up for the initial renewal of their alien registration certificates are active in the movement.

Representatives of Korean students in Ibaragi, Niigata, Saitama, Tottori, visited their local government offices and demanded a fundamental revision of the Alien Registration Law respectively on Mar. 15, 20, and April 4.

In local branches of Chongryun are holding a street campaign appealing for support.

Opposition to the law also is rising in Japanese public circles. As of Mar. 31, 780 local assemblies representing 362 cities, 15 wards, 12 metropolitan governments (including Tokyo), 341 towns and 50 villages accounting for 62.5% of Japanese population, adopted statements calling for the elimination of fingerprinting and compulsory carrying of alien registration certificates.

On April 9, the mayor of Mitaka, Sakamoto Sadao visited the Foreign Ministry and delivered then petition calling for the revision of the law.

Many organizations and political parties expressed their support for the movement.

In Osaka, Mar. 28, 5,000 people attended a mass rally held under the auspices of Osaka Headquarters of the Japan Socialist Party (JSP), General Council of Trade Unions, and All Japan Prefectural and Municipal Workers' Union.

At the rally, they adopted a resolution to struggle for a fundamental revision of the Alien Registration Law, launching a nation-wide campaign, and waged a street demonstration after the rally.

They are spearheading a 1,000,000 signature-collecting campaign including local democratic and municipal bodies as a symbol of Japan-Korea solidarity. Moreover, the National Committee for Japan-Korea Solidarity, All Japan Prefectural and Municipal Workers' Union, Japanese Women's Liaison Committee for Solidarity with Korean Women joined the movement with their demand for the fundamental revision of the law addressed to the Justice Ministry.

On the other hand, members of the House of Representatives led by JSP member Kawakami Tamio conducted a status survey on infringement of human rights for 2 days in Osaka on Mar. 8-9.

They concluded that the Alien Registration Law constituted an apparant human rights infringement and adopted a resolution calling for a fundamental revision of the law.

As of April 6, 186 foreigners refused to be fingerprinted, and a mass refusal for the procedure is to reach a climax in July and September.

However the Justise Ministry maintains that city officers must abide by the law and should file a camplaint with police or prosecutors against violators.

There is no sweeping change in the procedure in this mass renewal period, but problems in the procedure are under study, said the Justice Ministry.

The Justise Ministry announced that certain changes will be introduced to facilitate smoother registration (e.g. inkless fingerprinting).

But cosmetic changes will not solve the fundamental problem in the law violating human dignity.

Dream Didn't Come True of Joint Concert

A dream of the first joint music concert scheduled for April 4 in Osaka by two north and south Korean musicians, both residents of Japan, didn't come true, when the south Korea volinist had his passport confiscated by the south Korean authorities. The planned joint concert was supported by the Asahi Simbun Company, publisher of Japan's foremost daily. The dream was to sound the musical unity of the north and south Korean people at a time when the situation was turning favorable for Korean reunification.

The two young musicians, were graduates of the famed Japanese musical institute—Toho Gakuen School of Music—conductor Kim Hong Jae, and violinist Chong Chan U.

Kim, 30, got a special prize in a conductor concert of the 14th Democratic Concert. He conducted the National Symphony Orchestra of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra and the Yomiuri Nippon Symphony Orchestra. And currently he serves with Tokyo City Philharmonic Orchestra and Nagoya Philharmonic Orchestra as one of their full-time conductors.

Chong, 34, graduated from the Conservatoire National Superieur de Musique in Paris with top honors. Performing in the U.S.A., France and other countries, he is now concertmaster with the K.B.S. Symphony Orchestra in Seoul.

Conductor Kim Hong Jae on the day of the concert (Apr. 4).

The plan for the joint concert was initiated last fall by Japanese and Korean promoters including musicians, writers and men of culture. Among them were conductor Takashi Asahina of the Osaka Philharmonic Orchestra, Prof. Masaaki Ueda of Kyoto University, writer Kiichi Fujimoto and Yoo Sun Bong, director of Kong Hwa Hospital, a Korean medical center in Osaka.

According to the organizers, preparations were made after getting consent from the south Korean ministry of culture and information. On March, 13, the two musicians met for the first time at a press conference in Osaka, delighted that their long-standing dream would finally come true.

But after flying to Seoul on the same day, the violinist didn't return to Osaka on March 22, for rehearsal for the concert, because the south Korean authorities seized his passport at Kimpo Airport when he was leaving for Osaka.

Seoul informed the organizers that "it was undesirable to hold such a political event" and they "could not approve of it." The promoters were greatly shocked at the sudden change of the south Korean authorities' attitude.

Prof. Ueda expressed regret that the south Korea did not understand the meaning of the joint concert which was beyond politics and ideology.

On April 4, the day of the concert, 200 people left the Symphony Hall, Osaka, knowing Chong's absence, but 1,200 remained. The Kyoto Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra went on stage, conducted by Kim Hong Jae. They played Tchaikovsky's "5th Symphony" and "Ailang," a Korean folk song. But the main program, Bruch's "Violin Concert" was cancelled owing to the absence of the concertmaster.

In a telephone interview on the concert day with the Kyodo News Service, Chong said he was very sad that he could not attend the concert, which he had hoped would contribute to the reunification of the Korean people through music.

A certain Japanese music reviewer commented: "I've never heard of a state interfering in artistic activities abroad of musicians by confiscating their passports. The Koreans are reportedly trying to hold dialogue. Such action, however, casts a doubt on the commitment of the south Korean authorities to dialogue."

NEW DISPATCH
FROM PYONGYANG
DPRK Dels. to Foreign Countries
(Mar. 13-Mar. 20)

Mar. 13

* A DPRK table-tennis team to participate in the 38th world table-tennis championships to be held in Sweden.

* A Korean UNESCO National Committee delegation headed by Li Sang Sol, vice-Chairman of the Education Commission and vice-Chairman of the UNESCO National Committee of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, to attend the 4th International Adult Education Congress to be held in France.

Mar. 18

* A delegation of Pyongyang Sinmun headed by its Editor-in-Chief Kim Jong Hwan for a visit to China.

Mar. 19

* A Hamhung City friendship delegation headed by Kim Byong Chil, Secretary of the South Hamgyong Provincial People's Committee, for a visit to Shanghai, China.

Mar. 20

* A party workers delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea headed by Kim Ch'wang Jin, Director of a Department of the WPK Central Committee, for a visit to Czechoslovakia and the German Democratic Republic.

* A delegation of the DPRK Parliamentary group headed by Ryo Yon Gu, vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly, to attend the 73rd Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to be held in Togo.

* A delegation of the Korean Committee for Asian-African Solidarity headed by its General Secretary Pang Dae Ok to attend a meeting of the Presidium of the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization to be held in Libya.

* A delegation of the State Commission of Science and Technology headed by its General Director Li Gon Sik to visit the Soviet Union.

* A delegation of the Korean Central News Agency headed by its Deputy Director-General Song Bong Sun to attend the 6th Meeting of OANA to be held in India.

(To be continued)

Report on Human Rights in the "Republic of Korea" (3)

Freedom of the Press

(Continued from the previous issue)

Censorship and other forms of official government pressure have long inhibited South Korea's press in its efforts to provide independent reporting to the nation's public. Following the assassination of President Park, the military required pre-publication censorship of all news, evoking protests in May 1980 from the Korean Journalists Association that public opinion was being manipulated to consolidate military control.

Yet what was to come in the next seven months, under the leadership of President Chun, exceeded these measures in both its severity and pervasiveness. Official actions in a "Purification Movement" included dismissals of hundreds of journalists and closings of over a hundred journals and the introduction of restrictive new laws. This left the personnel, policies and management of the publishing and broadcasting businesses firmly under the thumb of the government. Initial visibly repressive acts have given way to a more subtle, but no less effective system of institutionalized official control.

The principal mechanisms for maintaining government control over the press are outlined in the Basic Press Act (hereinafter "Act") of 1980. The Act includes such requirements as work licenses for publishers, and imposes financial entry barriers which have the effect of banning small presses. News broadcasting systems and news services are all directly operated by past or present government officials.

As a further precaution against unwanted coverage, the South Korean Government regularly issues censorship regulations. Through these various devices, President Chun's control permeates the media. Arrest, imprisonment, or expulsion of journalists and editors is seldom required, though still available and occasionally used against the few who dare to break through government constraints.

PRESS FREEDOM AND THE LAW

Restrictions on the press violate both South Korean domestic law and international human rights law. Article 20 of the South Korean Constitution provides that "all citizens shall enjoy freedom of speech and press." South Korea's Basic Press Act further specifies such guarantees:

The purpose of this Act shall be to protect the freedom of expression and the right to access of information of the people and to guarantee public function of the press concerning information of public opinion, thereby esteeming dignity and value of human beings and contributing to realization of public welfare. (Art. 1)

and,

All citizens shall have the right to express freely by language, letters or figures and shall not be disturbed in their right to access to information sources which are available in common. The freedom of publication of periodicals such as newspaper, news service and other, and the freedom of broadcasting shall be guaranteed. (Art. 2)

Broad exceptions to the freedoms set forth in the Act, however, include instances where the press fails to "respect the dignity and value of human beings and the basic democratic order, "infringes upon the personal honor or rights of an individual, or public morality or social ethics," or "praises violence and other illegal actions which disrupt public order."

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights sets forth press rights as follows:

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression, this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

This right is embraced and receives further elaboration in the International Covernant on Civil and Political Rights:

Everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in the form of art, or through any other media of his choice.

The Covenant allows such exceptions as are:

Provided by law and are necessary: for respect of the rights or reputations of others; b) for the protection of national security or of public order (or the public), or of public health or moral.

The general exceptions in South Korean law, quoted above, are arguably not inconsistent with those permitted under the Covenant. As will be discussed below, however, the Act's specific limitations on press freedoms and the Government's actual practices far exceed the acceptable limits in inter-national law.

THE 1980 "PURIFICATION MOVEMENT" AND THE PRESS RESTRUCTURED

While the press was harshly suppressed under President Park and the Yushin Constitution, the Government of President Chun imposed more institutionalized, sophisticated and, thus, more effective methods of constraining expression. Such measures were initially taken during a press crackdown which took place from late 1979 through 1980.

As part of a general government purge against "undesirable and corrupt elements" following the May 1980 extension of martial law, on July 30, the Martial Law Command ordered al publishers to dismiss journalists who "were not sufficiently enthusiastic anti-communists, had joined a strike to oppose military censorship in May 1980; had close links with politicians; were known to be corrupt; had been accused of corruption by society." In compliance, many hundreds of South Korean journalists and newscasters were fired from their jobs. A document recently smuggled out of South Korea by a group calling itself "The 1980's Expelled Journalists Association" lists by name 683 expelled members of the press from about 40 different newspapers and broadcasting stations across the country. To make matters worse, these individuals were also banned from further writing. Despite repeated petitions on their behalf by opposition party legislators and political leaders, to our knowledge, few, if any, have been rehired or since published by the South Korean media. Peter Gallines, the Director of the London-based International Press Institute, estimated that, by September 9, 1980, over 30 percent of South Korean journalists had been driven out of the profession, and that some had been killed or imprisoned.

One banned journalist who was imprisoned at the time was Kim Tae Hong, President of the Korean Journalists Association and editor of the Korea Readers' Digest. He was arrested in Seoul on August 27, 1980 and charged with violating the Anti-Communist Law and Martial Law Regulations, allegedly planning to help Kim Dae Jung seize power. Amnesty International and others believed that the real reason behind Kim Tae Hong's arrest was his part in a May 17, 1980 protest delivered to the martial law authorities against censorship of the press. The journalists' statement said they would stop submitting reports for censorship and called for an end to Martial Law. Kim Tae Hong was in hiding until his arrest in August. Finally, he was released from prison in December 1981 in a government amnesty.

Lee Bu Young is another banned journalist who was imprisoned at the time of the purge for speaking out against press restrictions. Lee, a former journalist for the newspaper Dong-A Ilbo was arrested on November 14, 1979, charged with violating Martial Law Regulations and sentenced to three years imprisonment by a military court in Seoul. Lee was convicted for supporting a statement, issued on November 13, 1979, which called for reform of the Constitution to increase democratic and human rights, freedom of the press and speech, the release of prisoners of conscience and the restoration of civil rights.

On July 31, 1980, the government banned 172 periodicals and other publications if found "lewd, vulgar and obscene" or "creating social confusion and class consciousness." Although some were pornographic, many of these maintained a high literary and intellectual standard. On August 19, the government reportedly ordered the closing of 617 publishing firms. Later in 1980, one of Seoul's seven dailies, Shin-A Ilbo, was absorbed into the pro-government paper Kyunghyang Shinmun and six provincial newspapers were closed, the nine provinces hence-forth being limited to one newspaper each.

On November 25, 1980, the two private leading news agencies, Hapdong and Tongyang, news services, were dissolved and forcibly merged with several smaller agencies into a single organization, Yonhap, headed by the former Minister of Culture and Information. It is now the exclusive source of local and foreign news for South Korean press and boradcasting.

In December 1980, two independent boradcasting companies were absorbed into the state-run Korea Boradcasting Service (KBS), and the Christian Broadcasting Service was restricted to religious broadcasts. As a result all general radio and television news programs are now broadcast by the KBS and the Munhwa Broadcasting Corporation, which closely follows government policy, and is 65% owned by the KBS.

MAINTAINING CONTROL THROUGH THE 1980'S

Once the "undesirable" elements were weeded out of the publishing industry and the broadcasting companies were brought under direct government franchise, President Chun Doo Hwan set about creating mechanisms for maintaining his control in ensuing years. For the journalists allowed to remain on their jobs, Chun has created financial incentives designed to silence discontent. One observer describes the methods as follows:

There is also a full pot of "honey" ... for those who cooperate with the government. The perks range from bonuses that almost double annual salaries to scholarships for travel or children's study. Moreover, it is claimed that journalists in sensitive posts, like those covering police stations near universities with activist students, earn substantial bribes for providing – but not publishing – information.

But by far the most effective tool for keeping the press in line has been the Basic Press Act promulgated on December 31, 1980. The Act is an intricate and comprehensive set of rules regulating the media. Its stringent measures obviate the need for pre-publication censorship, a practice which was then abandoned. A description of some of its more pernicious features follows:

– Publishers must be licensed by the state before publihing a periodical, otherwise they may be sentenced up to two years of imprisonment or fined three million Won.

– In order to obtain a publishing license, a publisher must have facilities which meet minimum standards established in the Act. For example, those wishing to publish a general daily newspaper must have "a rotary machine with the capacity of printing per hour more than twenty thousand copies of averaging four-page newsprint in double tabloid form and other printing facilities incidental thereto ..... Publishers of weekly and other publications must have additional equipment.

– Publishers have a duty to submit two "specimen" copies of their publications to the Minister of Culture and Information. If the publication does not measure up in the eyes of ministry officials, the publishing licenses will be revoked.

– While the Act does not explicitly so require, journalists in South Korea apparently must have a license or press card issued by the Ministry of Culture and Information in order to have their writings published. The Act provides that an unlicensed person "who has performed the business of journalism by misrepresenting himself as a journalist," may be fined up to one million Won.

– Periodicals cannot be edited or published at branch offices.

– Broadcasters are bound to "respect ethical and emotional feelings of the people and contribute to the spread of social justice, the protecion of fundamental rights of the people and the promotion of international friendship."

– Broadcasters must always be "impartial and objective."

– Broadcasters must never "support or protect a specific interest, group, faith or thought, except as permitted for a special purpose."

– Broadcasters must keep records of all broadcasting, which must be delivered ever to the Minister of Culture and Information for inspection each month.

– A "Broadcasting Committee," appointed by the President and supported by the Government, is to oversee virtually all aspects of broadcasting relating to substance. The Committee's jurisdiction includes: "Basic particulars concerning the operation and programming of broadcasting"; "permission or not of commercial boraring according to types of boradcasting"; "matters concerning examination, research and development of broadcasting"; and "matters concerning the operation of the Broadcasting Deliberation Committee".

The net effect of these regulations is apparent: By establishing a highly centralized and hierarchical media, by imposing minimum facility requirements requiring large capital outlays, by banning publishing at branch offices, and by providing for the regulation of reporting on issues sensitive to the regime, the government has created a structure whereby it can efficiently monitor and control news coverage. Journalists who cannot conform are effectively silenced by a publishing industry firmly under the thumb of the Chun regime. Publishers who cannot be trusted are simply denied access to presses. Rarely since the Act's imposition has the Government had to resort to the primitive constraints used earlier.

(To be continued)

THE PEOPLE'S KOREA

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